

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 02530 161148Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 XMB-02
OPIC-03 /144 W

-----005723 170359Z /15

R 161038Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8703
INFO AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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DEPT PASS COMMERCE, EXIM, OPIC, TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, CG, EALR
SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN PETROLEUM DISCOVERY

REF: 77 KINSHASA A-63

1. REF AIRGRAM REPORTED THAT SORPEZA, OWNED BYSHELL
AMOCO, FINA AND GOZ, PLANNED TO RESUME EXPLORATORY WORK IN ITS
4,900 SQUARE KM. OIL CONCESSION ADJACENT TO THE OFFSHORE

CONCESSION MANAGED BY GULF OIL. SORPEZA'S EXPLORATORY
ACTIVITIES HAD BEEN SUSPENDED SINCE THE 1960'S, FOLLOWING A
LACK OF SUCCESS IN THE FIRST ATTEMPT.

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2. TOM KING, MANAGER OF ZAIRE-GULF, TOLD US THAT SORPEZA HAS
RECENTLY BROUGHT IN A WELL WHICH TESTED AT 2 TO 3,000 BPD.
KING STATED THAT A WELL OF THIS SIZE IS EXTREMELY ENCOURAGING
BUT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO STATE ON THE BASIS OF ONLY ONE
WELL WHETHER OR NOT THE FIND WILL BE COMMERCIAL. ADDITIONAL
WELLS MUST BE DRILLED TO DETERMINE THE SIZE OF THE PETROLEUM
DEPOSIT. NEVERTHELESS, KING SAID THAT HE WOULD GUESS THAT

THE FIELD WILL PROBABLY TURN OUT TO BE APPROXIMATELY EQUAL TO THE OFFSHORE FIELD MANAGED BY GULF, AT WHICH PRODUCTION IS EXPECTED TO STABILIZE AT 25,000 BPD. KING ALSO ESTIMATED THAT EVEN IF FIELD PROVES TO BE COMMERCIAL, IT WILL BE AT LEAST TWO YEARS BEFORE IT CAN GO ONSTREAM. NOTE: TOTAL GOZ REVENUES IN 1978 FROM OFFSHORE FIELD ARE ESTIMATED TO BE \$31 MILLION.

3. COMMENT: NEITHER GOZ NOR PETROLEUM COMPANIES HAVE YET ANNOUNCED PETROLEUM DISCOVERY. IT MAY BE THAT THEY ARE MERELY BEING CAUTIOUS AS IT IS NOT YET KNOWN IF FIELD WILL BE COMMERCIAL OR NOT. IT COULD ALSO BE THAT GOZ INTENDS TO MAKE DRAMATIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF FIND AT OPPORTUNE MOMENT.
CUTLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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